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groundnut cakes, it has occurred. So, we cannot say that it is due to that entirely. Now, as regards the dead, these are the figures :—

North Arcot—

Wandiwash—311.

Chengam—6.

Polur—14.

Arni—32.

Tiruvannamalai—167.

Cheyyar—1.

South Arcot—

Vriddachalam—134.

Kallakurichi—362.

Tirukkoilur—48.

Villupuram—20.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : May I request the Hon. Minister to ask his medical officers to find out why this bacillary dysentery has not been controlled, and why so many people died in spite of our having . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not a supplementary question.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : There is a specific therapy for this. Why was this specific Flexner therapy not applied in these cases, which would have prevented the deaths?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : It is only after going deeply into the causes, we have finally come to a sort of surmise that it may be Flexner group. In the beginning it was considered whether it could be due to the consumption of groundnut cakes. But people were taking *murukku* and *vadai* and all that and we were unable to say what it was due to.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : May I request the Hon. Minister to find out from his medical officers whether they found any anti-toxins in the blood of these people who suffered from this diarrhoea, if it was deemed to come under the Flexner Group?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : A team was sent out for investigation to the Pasteur Institute. When the final report comes, I will be able to give the answer.

Confidential reports

* 264 *Q.*—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are any regulations regarding confidential reports of Government servants and, if so. what they are; and

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(*b*) whether it is a fact that innumerable confidential reports have been prepared by Government Officials about the subordinates without any proper verification and proof?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister): (*a*) Instructions have been issued that confidential reports should give a fair and complete picture of the Officer reported on and touch on his merits and defects. Where an adverse opinion is expressed, the reason should as far as possible be stated, and the statement substantiated. All adverse remarks are generally communicated. The Government servant has a right of appeal against the adverse remarks.

(*b*) No.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN: Sir, is it a fact that on a number of occasion, the Government servants are harassed unnecessarily because of the adverse remarks in their confidential sheets? Till the time of their promotion, these adverse remarks are not made known to the Government servants, who have to succumb to the adverse remarks in their confidential sheets.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: There was some complaint like that in the past. But now definite instructions have been issued that the confidential reports should be written up every six months, and this is being done for the last two or three years.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN: If such cases have arisen, will the Hon. Minister discount those conndential reports whenever they come to his notice?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: It depends upon the circumstances of each case. A confidential report is not binding on the authority who decides the question. It is only a guide. Therefore, there is no question of discounting confidential reports.

VIDWAN T. MUTHUKANNAPPAN: மேலதிகாரிகள் எழுதும் புகார்கள் வேண்டுமென்று, பகை, வெறுப்பு காரணமாக எழுதப் படுகின்றன என்று நிரூபிக்கப்படுமானால், அவர்கள் மீது ஏதாவது நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்படுகிறதா?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: அவர்கள் செய்தது தவறு என்பது அதனால் ருசுவாகும். தவறு செய்தால், அதற்கு எப்போதும் நிவாரணம் இருக்கிறது.

State Transport

* 265 *Q*.—SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the conductor of the State Transport bus No 21-B which left Parry's Corner at 7-30 p.m. on 28th January 1961 demanded that the passengers going to Santhome should pay 22 nP. as he had run short of 19 nP. tickets; and